

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /174 W

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R 021458Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3294

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC

SUBJ: DUTCH REACTION TO FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR EC COMMON ENERGY
POLICY

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0176

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION VAN SCHAIK TELLS US THAT
DUTCH ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM FRENCH TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON FRENCH
ENERGY PROPOSAL (REFTEL) BY END OF THIS WEEK.

2. POSITION PAPER NOW READY FOR DUTCH CABINET CONSIDERATION ATTACKS
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FRENCH PROPOSAL ON THREE MAIN GROUNDS: (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW

EC ENERGY AGENCY WOULD TEND TO WEAKEN ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS, (2) FINANCING OF AGENCY BY COMMON LEVY ON ENERGY SOURCES WOULD ESTABLISH UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT, AND (3) NEW EC INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME WOULD UNDERMINE ONGOING WORK IN ECG.

3. WHEN FOREGOING LINE IS APPROVED (AS VAN SCHAIK ANTICIPATES) IT WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO COMMISSION WITH REQUEST THAT IT BE REFLECTED IN COMMISSION RESPONSE TO FRENCH PROPOSAL. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHETHER IT WILL ALSO BE PASSED BILATERALLY TO FRENCH IN RESPONSE TO FRENCH URGINGS.

4. DUTCH HERE UNDERSTAND THAT FRENCH PROPOSAL HAS BEEN GREETED WITH STRONG RESERVATIONS IN MANY EC CAPITALS, NOTABLY LONDON, BONN, COPENHAGEN, AND LUXEMBOURG, AND CONCLUDE THAT ITS PROSPECTS ARE POOR. THEY ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT LEAST BRIEFLY AT TODAY'S EC COUNCIL MEETING AND ARE HOLDING THEIR OPTIONS OPEN UNTIL THEY GET PLAYBACK FROM THAT MEETING.
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